SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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Joy of Victory

editorial

ANOTHER STEADY STRIDE FORWARD

THE first half-year of 1971 was a period of fierce and gruelling wrestle between the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces on the one side and the US aggressors and their strawmen on the other. The whole of US-puppets' manoeuvres and acts over these 6 months laid in the crucial test of US "Vietnamization" strategy, which turned out to be a bitter failure for them.

During this first half-year, "Vietnamization" strategic formula: native troops + US support, was put to a test on the 3 Indochinese battlefields. Saigon most seasoned troops, fully epuipped and trained by the US, together with US maximum fire power and up-to-date weaponry, were flung into a big sweep on Highway 9 - Khe Sanh (South Viet Nam) and Southern Laos, while a large-scale raiding operation was launched in northeastern Cambodia. Meanwhile, the U Minh jungled area became a testing ground for US - Saigon troops' long-term "pacification" campaign, under the so-called 1971 program of "common development and defence."

Admittedly, Nixon nurtures vicious designs. He planned a risky military adventure and lusted for a splendid round that would help him avoid the visible fiasco of his "Vietnamization," while gaining a position of strength on the battlefield from which to engage negotiations. All difficulties and stalemates having been discarded, he would come down in history not only as a victor of the Indochinese battlefields but also a champion in US presidential race next fall.

It was not accidental that Nixon hurled in the the above-mentioned campaigns, particularly in operation "Lam Son 719," elite troops of all services. Neither casual the fact that maximum US fire-power (aviation and artillery), logistics and finally even US combat units were at the entire disposal of Saigon mercenaries. It was clear that Nixon capitalized every knowledge in modern military science on this 6-month critical test. Not to mention US - puppets' war methods such as: mechanized infantry combined with air forces, cluster of strongholds defended by solid fortifications, "leap-frog," "hilltop enclaves," etc. Khe Sanh, Highway 9 and Southern Laos battlefields experienced the application of his strategic formula on a mountain and jungled theatre, while Cambodia northeastern front was selected as testing ground for warfare in the Plain. The U Minh long-term sweep operation was typical of "pacification" work on a populated terrain criss-crossed with rivers and canals.

It is obvious that in his third year of office and on the eve of presidential election, Nixon cherishes big ambitions.

RUNS a Vietnamese saying: the more treacherous the trick, the more crushing the disaster. Nixon cannot go astray this axiom. On all the three Indochinese battlefields he has tasted unprecedented bitter reverses in the crucial stage of his "Vietnamization" strategy. Together with the Lao, Cambodian

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Another Steady Stride Forward

(Continued from page 1)

peoples and their respective armed forces, the South Vietnamese people and their PLAF have vigorously been upholding their initiative on the field, annihilating adverse sizeable armed forces, winning big victories of decisive significance, thus operating on the battlefront a new change favorable to the Indochinese peoples.

The salient feature on the South Viet Nam battlefront these 6 months was the shattering of US dry-season strategic plan. Virtually all US and Saigon general strategic reserve forces in close and all-sided co-ordination with US units had been thrown into big operations in Northern Quang Tri, Southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia, in an attempt to strike at adverse strategic logistic front and resistance base, besiege and isolate South Viet Nam revolution, thereby stabilizing the Saigon regime. But events completely reversed US expectations. The bigger the operations, the heavier the losses.

The Saigon mercenaries received unremitting and stinging thrashings not only on Highway 9 — Northern Quang Tri, but also in northeastern Cambodia, the Western High Plateaux, Tri Thien, Binh Long, Tay Ninh and in Central Trung Bo. Never before has the Saigon army been dealt with such devastating blows as in these first 6 months. All those units that suffered the heaviest losses were precisely Saigon crack forces comprising paratroopers, marines, rangers and regular troops. Big multi-battalions were wiped out even in major clusters provided with strongest support and closest co-ordination ever provided by US air forces, artillery and logistics to Saigon mercenaries who have been going downhill since their debacle on Highway 9.

Along with murderous strikes at US - puppet mobile forces, stunning punches were also inflicted upon enemy "pacification" units, thus stepping up the anti-pacification drive. Giving full play to the all-out strength of people's war, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have closely combined attacks with uprisings, levelling military posts, wiping out cruel thugs, destroying strategic hamlets, battling efficiently in various forms against press-ganging and upgrading. The South Viet Nam PLAF were continuously on the attack, smashing every pacification and clearing operation of the enemy — an instance of which being the break-down of the U Minh long-term campaign, — while striking hard at "pacification" units' dens and springboards, chiefly military sub-sectors.

No matter how brutal and odious, US - Saigon's methods of "pacifying" South Viet Nam countryside, and stabilizing the Saigon administration, remained futile. The "pacification" program — mainstay of "Vietnamization" — is visibly going bankrupt.

Ebullient anti-US drive in urban centres.

Resounding military feats in the field have vigorously encouraged the South Viet Nam urban population's political drive. Cities and towns witnessed the most ebullient anti-US tide ever seen in South Viet Nam. US aggression is being flouted overtly, and Nixon's "Vietnamization" vehemently indicted by public opinion which urges the pullout of GIs from South Viet Nam. A wave against the present Thieu-led warlike Saigon group is mounting, fustigating draconian measures and treacherous election tricks to maintain the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu and employ him as a tool for the implementation of the US "Vietnamization" policy.

Townsfolks and the population in enemy-held areas, closely and widely united, have been struggling grimly for social welfare, democratic liberties, tightly associating their claims with the demand for an end to the US aggressive war, for the firing of the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu, for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy. The steady growth of the political drive in the cities together with brilliant exploits in the field are driving the US - puppets into a weakening, isolated posture, internal quarrels and grudge.

THE big victories scored by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces over these 6 months were a hard blow at Nixon's "Vietnamization" of the war. Successive setbacks have made the GIs ever more weary, hostile to war and reluctant to be the last GI to die in Indochina. How can the floored and still staggering Saigon army — that backbone of "Vietnamization" — which has just received fresh stunning beatings, take over the war burden or assume its role as "shock forces" in the application of the "Nixon doctrine" in Indochina? The US-paid Saigon administration is being in a fix. Nixon is for his part facing dire straits: defeat on the field, unrest in the States, and censure from world opinion.

On the other hand, the above successes marked the strides of the PLAF, the 3 categories of troops altogether, particularly of the regular troops. The more they fight, the stronger the liberation fighters become. Their will to fight and win, their undaunted and unflinching combativeness, the ingeniousness and mobility of their fighting methods, their technical and tactical knowledge, their capability of conducting massive operations or co-ordinating various branches in a single operation and their control of the field with high combat efficiency, constitute decisive factors for the SVN PLAF's steady stride and success.

The all-sided success of the SVN people and armed forces these 6 months are the biggest ever victory since the triumph of the early 1968 offensive and concerted uprisings. This is a victory of strategic significance which crushed the most strenuous effort of "Vietnamization" and opened up new prospects favorable to our forging ahead towards still greater achievements.

Close co-ordination between the three Indochinese peoples together with their armed forces.

The SVN PLAF's remarkable exploits also resulted from unity in combat, initiative in co-ordination between the armed forces of the three Indochinese peoples whose combat strength has become a new attacking force, a strategic posture for bigger exploits.

OVER these 6 months, though beaten black ad blue on the 3 Indochinese battlefronts, Nixon and Co still show themselves very stubborn and perfidious. They are unwilling to give up their aggressive design, seeking means and way to retrieve from their predicament, restrict their difficulties and reverses, and striving to win a position of strength on the battlefield. They frantically impress the youths into the army, upgrade and strengthen the Saigon troops and step up the "pacification" program in pursuance of the "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam. In Laos, the US ordered the Vang Pao bandits to carry out adventurist nibbling operations against the Plain of Jars, while intensifying US air attacks on Lao liberated areas. In Cambodia they tried their best to shore up the Lon Nol mercenaries and repeatedly conducted sweeps in Cambodia's liberated zone.

At the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the US is delaying and avoiding an answer to the South Vietnamese, American and world peoples' legitimate demands clearly formulated in the PRG's 7-point peace initiative. Psychowar methods have been used to mislead public opinion in the USA and the world, and ward off its criticisms spearheaded against the Pentagon and the White House.

Facts fully demonstrate that Nixon and Company's plots and deeds are utterly brutal and treacherous. Their position of die-hard aggressors has complicated and strained the situation in South Viet Nam and Indochina, and stalemated the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

Fierce and protracted is the struggle waged by our people. But these 6 months mark another steady stride of the South Viet Nam people's war in every respect. Ensuing favorable conditions are awaiting the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces. With their iron-like determination, the might of the people's war, the close co-ordination with the Cambodian, Lao peoples' and liberation armies, with the sympathy and support from the peoples all over the world, including the United States, the South Vietnamese people and PLAF, pushing ahead their resistance perseveringly and unfinchingly, will certainly win final victory.

SOUTH VIET NAM

In the First Half Of 1971

ALONG with the news-making successes of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces on the various battlefields over the past six months, the city people's political agitation has gained momentum, powerfully spearheaded against the US aggressors and the bellicose authorities headed by Nguyen Van Thieu.

The enemy has been vainly resorting to savage repression and deception to stamp out the workers and labourers' struggle in the US-quisling enterprises in South Viet Nam for democracy and better living conditions. It has been varied and versatile in form : slow-downs, strikes, demonstrations, teach-ins, petitions, opposition to fines, to wage-cuts, arbitrary sackings, to the "seven economic measures," and to taxes on labourers' earnings.

Early in 1971, workers of almost all enterprises in Saigon militated for a 13th month pay. In Can Tho, Da Nang, Cam Ranh thousands of them fought for better living standards. The peak of the movement in the past six months was the conference of more than 1,000 delegates from 178 Saigon trade unions against the "seven economic measures" of the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu which made the already miserable life of the workers worse, the general walk-out of over 4,000 railwaymen for a 65 per cent wage-increase, which seriously delayed US-Saigon communications from Nam Bo to Central Trung Bo, the strike of 80,000 workers and employees of 21 trade unions for the abolition of taxes on salary, the action of 15,000 Saigon-Gia Dinh taxi drivers against arbitrary fines and for a new fare-tariff. On May Day, despite a sizeable deployment of policemen and secret agents, many leaflets and posters appeared in the streets and in US-Saigon offices, claiming trade-union freedom, social justice, withdrawal of US troops and overthrow of the US puppet clique headed by Nguyen Van Thieu. On the same day, in Da Nang, over 20,000 workers and labourers from 29 trade unions and 16 sections in the city held a meeting, to urge a change in the Saigon economic and financial policy and the abolition of other exorbitant taxes weighing down upon the toiling people.

Over the past 6 months the workers have been very militant not only in the big cities like Saigon, Cholon, Gia Dinh, Can Tho and Da Nang, but also in almost all cities and towns. Strengthened by the co-ordination between various trade unions the drive has enjoyed the broad support of such circles and organizations as the General Association of Teachers, the Saigon Association of Buddhists, the National Movement for Self-Determination, the Women's Movement for the Right To Live.

In the meantime, the pupils' and students' "Campaign against US Aggression" triggered by GI murders of Vietnamese in South Viet Nam cities at the beginning of this year has swollen into a high tide spreading from Quy Nhon to Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Quang Ngai, Can Tho and many other towns. In spite of US-Saigon terror and repression, school-strikes, hunger-strikes, meetings, demonstrations have broken out one after the other. Side by side with youths, tens of thousands of people marched to US bases, Embassy and Saigon offices, shouting "Down with the US murderers!" "Down with Nixon" and demanding an end to US aggression and a rapid and complete withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam. They also organized vigils to "sing for peace in Viet Nam."

Political Trepidation in Cities

Early in February, immediately after the Thieu clique had hurled Saigon troops into an incursion into Laos, a wave of protest by students and pupils swept through almost all South Viet Nam cities. They repeatedly demonstrated in front of the US Embassy, the Saigon "Parliament," distributed hundreds of thousands of leaflets exposing the US-Thieu widening of their aggressive war to Laos and Cambodia. On the other hand, many groups of youths mixed with the population in Saigon and other cities and towns in a "Speak and listen to our compatriots" drive and denounced the Thieu clique for having acted "on foreigners' orders" and sent tens of thousands of South Viet Nam troops into Laos to die in the place of GIs.

Long-hair army

The Saigon General Association of Students also put up a resolute resistance against the US-Thieu "military training" aimed at turning pupils and students into cannon-fodder. In most variegated ways, Hue students put out a bulletin baring US crimes and Saigon subservience to the Americans. They composed and popularized songs like "Turn Out in the Streets" and "Awake and Go" to galvanize the effort against the US puppets.

The agitation against the US-Saigon depraved culture, draft of youth, repression of students, and for college autonomy gripped almost all secondary and higher learning establishments.

In May, in particular, the Saigon Association of Pupils and Students held two meetings and demonstrations to commemorate girl-student Nhat Chi Mai's self-immolation for peace, for an end to the aggressive war and for the complete withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam.

The young dissenters courageously defied enemy brutalities and persecution. They used everything at their disposal: Molotov cocktails, iron bars, bricks, stones, bottles, tables and chairs... to deal with the police cordon around their schools, and even set fire to US military police cars. Their slogans were more and more motivated aimed directly against the US quislings and concurring with the entire people's aspirations: The "End repression and terror," "Freedom for the illegally arrested students" was always coupled with "End the war, restore peace," "Bunker go home"... A significant trait of their turmoil has been its diversity of forms conditioned only by time and place: teach-ins, meetings, congresses, declarations, press conferences, composition of songs or publication of bulletins against US aggression, interviews with the population to indict US puppets' crimes, distribution of leaflets, school-strikes, hunger-strikes, sit-ins, parades, irruption into Saigon military courts to denounce the US-Saigon fascist regime.

In the political unrest over the past six months a fact has been brought out: the more obdurate and fascist the US-puppets become, the higher popular feeling runs and the more peace organizations proliferate. Successively the "Association of Wives and Mothers for the Return of their Husbands and Sons," the "Movement of Pupils, Students and Youths Against the Draft," the "Movement Against War and Mobilization," the "Popular Front For Peace" in Hue and other localities came into being. These organizations have set as their goal "An end to the US aggressive war," "Withdrawal of US troops and restoration of peace," and blamed on the presence of US and satellite troops in South Viet Nam and the dependence of the Thieu bellicose junta on foreigners (USA), the untold deaths and sufferings, mourning and destitution among the various segments of the South Vietnamese people.

On Buddha's birthday (May 9) this year, a vigorous and widespread anti US-Saigon protest flared up among the people and the Buddhist followers in almost all cities of South Viet Nam from Saigon, Hue, Quy Nhon, Can Tho, My Tho... Millions of people and Buddhists turned out in the streets and marched to pagodas to pray for peace, for the withdrawal of US troops to let the Vietnamese settle their internal affairs without foreign interference. In Hue, in particular, while the population and the Buddhist believers took to the streets, nun Nguyen Thi Co and bonze Thich Chon The burnt themselves to death as a protest against US aggressive war and a sacrifice for the restoration of peace. On the same occasion, hundreds of intellectuals, writers, journalists, lawyers, professors, and doctors came out for the Buddhist circles.

The heavier the US-Saigon all-round setbacks, the more obdurate, bellicose and fascist they became. They used their police apparatus and harsh laws to suppress and stifle all freedoms, opposed those who yearn for peace and struggle for independence and neutrality in South Viet Nam. They repeatedly seized and arbitrarily fined newspapers, sent hooligans to sack editorial offices, arrested and jailed many journalists... However, the papers published in Saigon kept on reflecting a part of the truth and the aspiration for peace by the various strata of the people, openly lashing at the US aggressive war in South Viet Nam and exposing the odious tricks and corruption of the Saigon administration.

The nearer the "presidential elections," the higher the popular sentiment rose against the fraudulent electoral regulations and the "deputies" in the rubber-stamp "Parliament." The protesters repeatedly criticized Thieu's use of money, deception and force, to ram through the Saigon "House" Article 10 of Chapter 7 of the draft bill on the election of the Saigon president. They insisted that Thieu

cancel such an unfair election act On the second founding anniversary of the "Progressive National Forces" in Saigon, a prominent intellectual taxed the Thieu clique as bellicists bent on repressing all exponents of peace, "maintaining foreign (US-Ed.) power and dispatching South Vietnamese youths to their death on all Indochinese battlefields, in an attempt to consolidate their position and experiment on the machiavellian design of the US administration called Nixon doctrine..."

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The political effervescence of the South Viet Nam urban people has been mounting and spreading steadily not only among the workers, labourers, pupils and students, press, Buddhist circles, intelligentsia, peace organizations... but also among Saigon "MPs" and officials.

The South Vietnamese people's pressing goal of struggle at present is to oppose the US aggressors and the obdurate, warlike and foreignly subservient puppet Thieu clique, to demand the withdrawal of US troops, welfare and democracy, an end to US backing of the bellicose Thieu clique, to set up a government advocating peace, independence, neutrality and democracy in South Viet Nam.

There is little doubt that no moves, however cruel, warlike and obdurate, of the US-Saigon rule can check it.

NIEN NGUYEN

WORKERS' CONTINUED ACTION

THE "Sponsoring Committee for Lower Taxes on Salary," at its recent extraordinary session, warned that if the Thieu administration failed to meet their demands quickly and satisfactorily, all the workers, private employees and other labouring people would join actions in defending their legitimate rights. The same Committee also sent letters to Saigon "MPs," informing them that all private office employees, workers, armymen and their families, totalling nearly 3 million, would take strong actions because of their ever more distressful living conditions.

According to the communique of the "Trade Union of Dockers," all waterside workers are resolved to fight to a bitter end against Tran Quoc Buu, a stooge of the US-Thieu clique who has been for many years now undermining the workers' ranks and has recently instigated many murders of dockers. Backing the waterside workers' actions, the President of the Federation of Saigon Trade Unions held a press conference denouncing that the dockers had to shed their blood only because of the US-Saigon vicious sacking of Vietnamese workers and replacing them by foreign ones.

Pilots of the "Air Viet Nam" in Saigon on July 15 began a staggered strike for wagelifts and refused overtime work, thereby cancelling a number of flights inside the country.

SAIGONESE STEP UP SUPPORT FOR PRG PEACE PLAN

THE new peace initiative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam continued to be a subject of heated and widespread discussions in Saigon.

Superior Monk Thien Hoa, Head of the "Hoa Dao" Institute, said: "The 7 points are something new, mild and flexible. I hope that the US will respond to them, so that the atrocious war in Viet Nam will be soon brought to an end and the Vietnamese people enjoy peace and happiness. Venerable Huyen Dieu commented: "In face of the earnest desire for peace of the Vietnamese people in particular and the world's peoples in general, the Americans must show that they are men of peace at least to some extent."

Representative Ho Ngoc Nhuan, in a press article entitled *Nga Re* (A Turning in Viet Nam), bared Nixon's scheme to use unjustifiable pretexts to retain the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu. "The US," he asserted, "can no longer invoke any reason to maintain the Saigon government by violence," because Minister Nguyen Thi Binh has suggested the formation of a three-segment national union government representative of the Vietnamese people's will and the gradual release of 'POW's' along with the troop pullout from now to the end of this year." The same article also described the peace offer as a golden opportunity for the US if Nixon really wanted a peaceful solution and the end of the war.

Saigon papers continued extolling the RSVN PRG goodwill. The daily *Tin Sang* (Morning News), referring to the US - Saigon uneasiness caused by this move, said: "Madame Binh has just put forth a 7-point peace proposal. As a rule each time the other side [NFL and PRG] has submitted any proposal, this side [US-and quislings] immediately rejects it over the Radio. But this time, the Foreign Minister [Saigon] seems to be more cautious, and the government [Thieu administration] is considering it. It is really mischievous of the other side to have made such an embarrassing offer right in the thick of the electoral campaign."

Doc Lap (Independence) wrote: "The Saigon political circles must see that this is an indication of the communist side's desire for serious negotiations." *Dan* (People) revealed that the 7-point proposal is giving a headache to the Vietnamese officials (Thieu clique — *Ed*).

Many Saigon troops have been trying to get more information on the PRG new initiative over Liberation Radio or the Voice of Viet Nam, through leaflets or the press. Several officiers, in defiance of Thieu's ban, have declared for the above-said peace proposal, especially the point on the total withdrawal from South Viet Nam in 1971 of troops, military personnel, arms and other war materials of the US and foreign countries in the US camp. "Though the liberation forces are strong and successful on the battlefield they demand an end to the war, which shows their genuine desire for peace," they opined.

In the Cities

Protest against persecution of students

ACCORDING to the Saigon paper Dien Tin *(Express) the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration on June 22, 23 and 25 sought by all means to sow dissensions among the student ranks. On June 20 while the election of the Central Committee of the Students' General Association was under way, the quisling authorities – hired hooligans broke into the meeting hall and smashed its furniture, wrecked the ballot box, manhandled members of the Organizing Committee and disturbed the vote counting operation.*

– 25 mass organizations in Saigon, the Students' Unions in Hue, Can Tho and Dalat, the Saigon Buddhist Student's Organization... issued communiques condemning the Saigon administration's brazen interference in the students' internal affairs and rejecting the new Central Committee of the Students' General Association created up by them. They also called on all students to unite in the struggle for the respect for academic autonomy. At present, the so-called new Central Committee is boycotted in all parts of South Viet Nam while the old one and all the groups belonging to the Students' General Association are carrying on their activities and enjoying ever broader support.

– In an article in the Saigon daily Tin Sang *(Morning News) on July 5, "MP" Ly Chanh Trung said: "All the efforts of the [Thieu] administration in the recent past were apparently focussed on a major aim that is to knock out a sick man, Huynh Tan Mam, who has been arrested and then released several times. But even if the administration succeeds in knocking him out or putting him in Chi Hoa or Con Son jails, they cannot win over any student, except those bought or bribed by them.*

Who Are They?

A Gang of Grafters and Racketeers

IN South Viet Nam, there can be no government which may be called government. Vast majority of the South Vietnamese people regard it as a centre of power struggle, corruption and decay.

The New York Times
October 22, 1965.

"Such incompetent and dishonest people who are only dollar-minded like Thieu-Ky cannot have neither credit nor strength."

Hue Radio *during the anti-Thieu-Ky drive — April* 8, 1965.

"In several governments, everyone has been clamouring for a vigorous fight against corruption but the latter has been going from bad to worse. Every administration calls on the people to lend it a hand. But when dealing with any of such dirty cases, the administration immediately asks: "Where is the evidence? If you are unable to produce it, you yourself will be prosecuted, and if you are, you will be tried too."

Saigon paper **Song** *(Life), June* 28, 1966.

"The leaders of South Viet Nam are pocketing millions of our dollars."

McCarthy — *AP, February* 23, 1968.

The top personalities in the South Viet Nam government have been involved in gold and opium rackets.

AP, *February* 28 1968.

"We are dependent. Our ranks are being neutralized, and injustices and corruption is still rampant. The main cause of the people's enmity for the government is corruption. The latter has generated untold injustices, dissensions, feuds and made the people suspicious, disgusted, and angry against the administration."

Tran Van Huong — *Saigon Radio May* 28, 1966

The South Viet Nam government is a corrupt one, without support from the masses, and represents nobody.

Clairborn Pell—*UPI, June* 21, 1968.

"If we completely eradicate corruption, there will be noboby left in office to do work."

Tran Van Huong — *UPI, October* 8, 1968.

"The Saigon administration is a tyrannical rotten, corrupt... regime and an unsaleable commodity."

Retired Lieut-Colonel **Corkson** in "Treason," *published in the US*, 1968.

"A number of members of the Saigon delegation to Paris have turned the trip into a search for pleasures. They brought along friends, cooks, mistresses, car-drivers and even co-gamblers."

Saigon Daily News — *AFP December* 15, 1968.

"The future of the nation has been trusted to a number of half-men half-beasts, neither ignorant nor intelligent, creations of a dubious election... The Republic of Viet Nam national assembly is a garbage bin. If not removed in time with a worn-out broom, in the near future it will turn into a heap of excrement in the eyes of world opinion."

Saigon **Thoi Dai Moi** *(New Era) December* 27—31, 1968.

One of the key problems of the present South Viet Nam government is corruption which is so serious that even stern warnings or sacking of a half of the 44 provincial governors and 91 district heads would be of no help.

Times, *March* 28, 1969.

The government, inherited by Thieu after being elected president, really has not the least national character and can hardly be regarded as a government... A government of landlords full of suspicion for one another and only obey orders when they are consistent with their objectives.

Times, *March* 28, 1969.

"25 among the 44 provincial governors, 3 of the 4 army column commanders and 149 among the 243 district heads have been removed because of corruption, incapability or of both."

Scripps Howard — *April* 25, 1969.

"11 generals, 7 colonels and 2 majors of the Saigon army have been denounced for illegally occupying government buildings."

AFP, *May* 14, 1969.

According to the opinion of all the people interviewed the present government is bureaucratic and incapable, and must be thoroughly reshuffled. Corruption has been spreading to all branches of the government... People say that the military leaders are the biggest gang of grafters.

They affirmed that important positions such as provincial governors could be bought. They also said that now everybody was quite aware that the offenders were officials from low positions to the "Independence Palace."

The Baltimore Sun,
June 2, 1969.

"Corruption here has become a major industry. It has been raised to a system and a status. It is no longer an individual disease... The grafters are the people in power, and governors abusing their power to exploit the governed people."

Saigon paper **Cong Luan** *(Public Opinion), February* 22, 1970.

"The vice-president of the Saigon regime Nguyen Cao Ky has also been involved in the traffic of opium and 'heroin,' since he was an agent of the CIA entrusted with the task of smuggling spy-commandos into the DRVN. Now he is using his position to carry out such an illegal traffic from Laos to Saigon. At present, Ky continues to take an active part in the transfer of opium from South Viet Nam to the US and other countries."

Voix Ouvrière, *May* 14, 1971.

"Public opinion at home and abroad regards the present government as one which is thriving on the people's blood, on the gold, silver and 'heroin' rackets."

Tran Ngoc Lieng — *AFP, June* 5, 1971.

The war lords headed by Nguyen Van Thieu have been clamouring that they are "for the people" that they are deeply concerned about "the people's welfare" and they are even ready to "sacrifice their lives" for the people.

But now as in the past, public opinion at home and abroad has established that they are only a gang of robbers and smugglers.

On the 10th founding anniversary of the SVN Liberation Association of Literature and Arts (July 15)

A Glorious Period

Movie artist Kim Chi

SINCE July 15, 1961, SVN history has witnessed the miraculous birth and growth of a liberation literature and arts.

Ten years earlier, the Americans and their agent Ngo Dinh Diem used guillotine, bayonets, prisons to undermine the people's will to resist. They launched no end of bloody "anti-communist," "denounce communists" drives to force revolutionary militants to lay down their arms. They tried to stamp out with dollars and other baits the fire burning in the hearts of the intelligentsia, of workers of literature and arts. The dark designs and dastardly crimes of the invaders and their valets however generated consequences that they had not foreseen: the simultaneous uprisings of the people under the leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in late 1960. In the light of the NFL program of action, honest writers and artists rallied in **the Literature and Arts Association for the Liberation of South Viet Nam.**

A historical necessity, the emergence of the Association did not merely meet the urgent need of writers and artists to unite into a single organization whose prime task should be the overthrow of the imperialists and their lackeys' rule. It also responded to the deep-seated aspirations of the broad masses, namely, the development of Viet Nam's traditional culture and the defence of it against an alien culture upheld by the Yankees and their quislings.

On the other hand, the townsfolk were disgusted with the American way of life, a by-product of foreign occupation that should be eliminated from the people's moral life. All this explains why upon its coming into existence, this association for the promotion of a revolutionary literature and arts exerted a momentous attraction. The elements who came together at the outset were small in number but firm in purpose and confident that the good seeds they sowed would yield bumper crops. Subsequent realities have confirmed their expectations.

Heir to national traditions, South Viet Nam liberation literature and arts voice the love of man and the love for the fatherland. Never have Viet Nam and the Vietnamese been portrayed with so much love and pride as today.

The majestic High Plateaux pictured in **Xa Nu Jungle, Songs of the Ch'rao Bird** and sketches by Siu Man, Hong Chinh Hien and Quang Son, scenes of the Cambodian minority's daily life in **The Pestle Pounds at Bom Bo, Young Saret** and **Old Man Sathet**, the vastness of the Mekong waters, the boundless *tram* and *duoc* forests in the Ca Mau peninsula, the country's immense riches, even the delicious taste of the milk of coconut grown in plantations that seems to symbolize the lofty soul of the South Vietnamese — nothing has been omitted.

But the dominant theme of patriotic literature and arts has been revolutionary heroism. It is generally dealt with in a simple yet arresting way. Vietnamese history since time immemorial has been full of heroes, heroines and feats of arms in the defence or liberation of the native land. One must say however that it is in the current fight against Yankee invasion that literature and arts have produced the most vivid illustration of heroism, and the most searing indictments of aggression which constitute their greatest achievements. **The Way He Lived, The Mother with a Rifle, The Land's Dream, Hon Dat** or any other noted liberation literary works are in this vein.

The son of Ut Tich in **The Mother with a Rifle** proudly answers a chopper pilots: "Children of liberation soldiers never surrender." Xuyen, a girl in **In the Lands of the Quang Provinces**, accepts to die to save the lives of revolutionary militants hidden in undergrounds. Su, a young woman in **Hon Dat**, remains indomitable and, before dying at the hands of her torturers, does not forget to say affectionate words to her friends and comrades-in-arms. It seems that heroic deeds were natural to everyone. For he or she has to choose between cowardly capitulation with the resulting loss of dignity and undaunted resistance with the ensuing supreme sacrifice if need be to safeguard his or her honour. An old man of the U Minh jungle says: "This Ca Mau peninsula is the land's end; there is no more land to retreat into, but I'll remain here even if I must die." That is also the path taken by the entire South Vietnamese people, of "the mother with a rifle" deeply aware that "in the present confrontation with the Yankees, to bring up their children, mothers must have their arms handy."

In the present condition of South Viet Nam it is glaringly clear that chances for every one of any age to become a hero occur every minute. There is no need to engage in adventurous undertakings. One has only to uphold humanity.

In such a long war the people cannot avoid losses in property and human lives. But their most important gain in this gruelling process is their maturity, noble moral values and sentiments. And these exalted moral values and sentiments of the South Vietnamese man, the liberation literature and arts have brought out in bold relief.

ALL that accounts for the militancy, mass character and marked revolutionary optimism of South Viet Nam's patriotic literature and arts.

First and foremost, these are an integral part of the ideological front, a sharp weapon and a source of inspiration for the people in the fight against the foreign invaders and the native quislings.

Poet Le Anh Xuan

Writer Nguyen Thi

Dynamism and wholesomeness are manifestations of the militant character of literature and arts. **Let's liberate the South,** the anthem of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam by Huynh Minh Sieng, just as songs by Huy Quang and Thuan Yen, sounds like clarion calls thanks to the apt combination of the content with the freshness of the style. On the other hand, though other works still remain at the level of sketches and notes they are valued and badly needed mental food for an embattled people.

The popular, mass character finds its expression above all in the portraying of the labouring people. With it peasants, workers and other toilers have become main characters pictured in a most interesting fashion. Remarkable is the language used by the authors—the very language of the people—and their substantial and vivid representation of the people's way of life in their works. This marks novels and short stories by Nguyen Thi, Anh Duc, Nguyen Sang, Tran Hieu Minh, Phan Tu and others with a strong national character, and is responsible for their notable success.

Patriotic literature and arts in South Viet Nam are imbued with revolutionary optimism which springs from man's profound confidence in his own strength, in the final victory of his revolutionary struggle and the inescapable failure of his enemy.

The South Vietnamese live naturally and relaxedly despite bombs and bullets. Condensed expressions of this are the girls characterized, for example, by Nguyen Thi in the short story *Spring*, Nguyen Vu in a play of the same title and Hong Chi in the films *The Way Forward* and *Arts and Youth*. It is safe to say that revolutionary optimism is the very essence of the South Vietnamese people's life. From this point of view our writers and artists do not oversimplify life as it is; they just picture it in its essential features and faithfully reflect it.

(Continued page 9)

SIX HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MONTHS

EARLY this year the American aggressors flung most of their main mobile forces and those of the Saigon administration into large-scale operations on Highway 9, in the Khe Sanh area and in Southern Laos, apart from rescue, preventive and 'support pacification' actions. Those were moves to ward off the imminent fiasco of Vietnamization then in deep waters. But the peoples and patriotic forces of South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia joined actions and frustrated Operation *Lam Son* 719 in Southern Laos and Operation *Jan.* 1971 *Complete Victory* in north-eastern Cambodia.

MILITARY VICTORIES

Following up their gains, the people and liberation forces mounted continuous attacks and uprisings throughout South Viet Nam. They struck hard at enemy defences, and rear bases including a whole series of positions, gun emplacements and storages, wiped out or heavily damaged a number of military subsectors, levelled or forced to decamp a sizeable number of garrisons, and checked many sweeps and "support pacification" raids. Liberation troops knocked down important US and Saigon forces, further aggravating the Saigon army's inevitable desintegration.

ON THE ROUTE 9 — KHE SANH FRONT (North Quang Tri)

Liberation forces put out of action 7,000 adverse troops—among them 4,000 GIs — in the Khe Sanh area when US and Saigon troops were fielded for the invasion of Southern Laos. They launched onslaughts on the western defences of the provincial town of Quang Tri and Dong Ha and won signal successes at Dong Tri, Dong Che and on Height 544 (*Fuller* Base).

Patriotic forces in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces held in check Operation *Lam Son* 720 in the A So area, erasing the CP of Regiment 54 at Co Pung.

The above-mentioned operations of the PLAF dealt stinging blows at the routed Saigon troops before they rallied after their retreat from Southern Laos.

ON THE TAY NINH — BINH LONG FRONT (East Nam Bo). PLAF in Tay Ninh - Binh Long delivered a series of strikes at enemy convoys bringing supplies to Saigon troops engaged in the *Jan.* 1971 *Complete Victory* campaign in Northeast Cambodia. As a result, they put out of commission dozens of artillery pieces and heavy mortars. Liberation forces also made deep thrusts into logistic bases, gun positions and large petrol dumps at Xa Mat and Catum. On May 31, in co-ordination with Cambodian patriotic forces which knocked down the Saigon Task force No 8 and a regiment, Binh Long PLAF inflicted severe losses upon two battalions fleeing toward South Viet Nam border. Meanwhile, adverse division, regiment and battalion CPs in Dau Tieng, Tay Ninh and North Gia Dinh regions were stormed.

Those onsets posed a heavy threat to the defence perimeter around Saigon and compelled the enemy to curtail their rescue forces in other areas to strengthen the defence of the city.

ON THE HIGH PLATEAUX. In late February and early March, the PLAF assaulted the Ngoc To Ba base and the district town of Phu Nhon, destroying the military subsector here and wiping out several battalions. The adversary had to undertake large-scale rescue missions four of which were baffled with the resulting annihilation of, or heavy damage inflicted upon, six battalions at Ngoc Rinh Rua. These actions of the liberation troops forced the enemy to give up their plan to strike at the Viet Nam - Cambodia - Laos border region. Taking advantage of the rout of the Saigon forces in Southern Laos, the PLAF invested and finally blotted out the enemy position on Height 1001 (fire base 6); they also intercepted and completely battered reinforcements. Remarkably all the 25 regular battalions of Army Corps 2 and of the Saigon general reserves brought in to relieve pressure on fire bases 5 and 6, were written off or badly mauled.

In the Trung Bo and Nam Bo plains. Here, throughout the past six months the PLAF and people have kept up their offensives against adverse defence and coercive forces.

In **Central Trung Bo,** five waves of vigorous actions coupled with popular uprisings took place in the mountains, plains and virtually all urban centres from Quang Nam to Khanh Hoa. Few bases, major positions, CPs, strategic storages and airfields escaped liberation troops' punches, nor garrisons, the coercive apparatus, a series of "strategic hamlets" and other concentration areas against which the people fiercely got at: the most outstanding feat was the putting out of action, in a matter of minutes, of an American battalion at Xa Doc by Quang Nam PLAF. In one night, March 28, the 30km-long subsector of Duc Duc was levelled, which enabled 16,000 inhabitants penned up in "strategic hamlets" to rise up and seize control. Liberation forces also stormed important airfields and big ammunition and petrol dumps in Binh Dinh and Khanh Hoa provinces. Series of garrisons manned by militiamen and "civil guards" were flattened or forced to withdraw, concentration zones dispersed and quisling administrations shattered.

In the **Mekong Delta** the enemy coercive system was subjected to repeated strikes. Many garrisons and military subsectors were razed and over 10,000 "strategic hamlets" dismantled. "Support pacification" operations ended in failure with severe losses. Typical of this was the operation in the U Minh jungle and Batton, vital for the pacification plan in the Mekong Delta. In 180 days of furious fighting, the patriotic forces and people in Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces put out of action 10,000 troops of the Saigon 21th Division and the 15th Regiment of the 9th Division, destroyed the CPs of various army units, downed or wrecked on the ground 60 aircraft, and sank or set on fire 12 ships.

According to preliminary figures, in the first six months of the current year, the PLAF and people inflicted over 151,000 enemy casualties (including 25,000 US and satellite troops), downed or blasted out of commission 1,160 helicopters and aircraft of different types, destroyed 4,200 military vehicles (half of which tanks and armoured cars) and sent to the bottom or set afire 380 ships and combat launches.

FRUITFUL AGITATION WORK AMONG ADVERSE TROOPS

Together with military activities, agitation among adverse troops registered substantial gains. Collective desertions, mutinies, killings of bullying commanders and destruction of garrisons became frequent occurrences. One also witnessed more and more instances of resistance to troop concentrations, rescue missions and pacification operations, as well as of self-infliction of wounds for combat dodging purpose.

In the plains of **Central Trung Bo,** 20,000 mercenary troops defected in the last six months. Most of the "civil guards" along National Route 1 returned their weapons to the Saigon authorities, objecting to patrol missions.

In **Quang Tri, Thua Thien,** the **High Plateaux** and **Nam Bo** plains many adverse regular units ignored marching orders, shirked combat duties in Cambodia and Laos or, once on the field, refused battle or surrendered to the PLAF. To fill manpower gaps caused by losses on the battlefields and disbandments, the Americans and Saigon administration did their best to impress youths, which has thus rendered the mercenary army still more heterogenous, made bad worse after the loss of mobile forces and general strategic reserves in Southern Laos and Cambodia. This is all the more serious as more American troops are withdrawing from South Viet Nam, and as the remainder, not inclined to die at the eleventh hour in a lost war and plagued by drug addiction, are claiming repatriation.

COUNTER-PACIFICATION ACTIONS

In the first six months of 1971 the liberation forces and people of South Viet Nam put to a hard test the US rural pacification program, the core of the Vietnamization policy.

With 1,830,000 attendances the people rose up and damaged or dismantled 2,260 "strategic hamlets" and concentration areas.

Guerilla warfare steadily expanded and guerilla bases were set up where the enemy mounted the most ruthless pacification sweeps. Guerilla fighters who developed their activities in a judicious direction, lent an effective hand to the people to break the enemy grip and seize control.

The several months of adverse "mop-ups" in the U Minh jungle were precisely a period of the guerilla's big strides ahead.

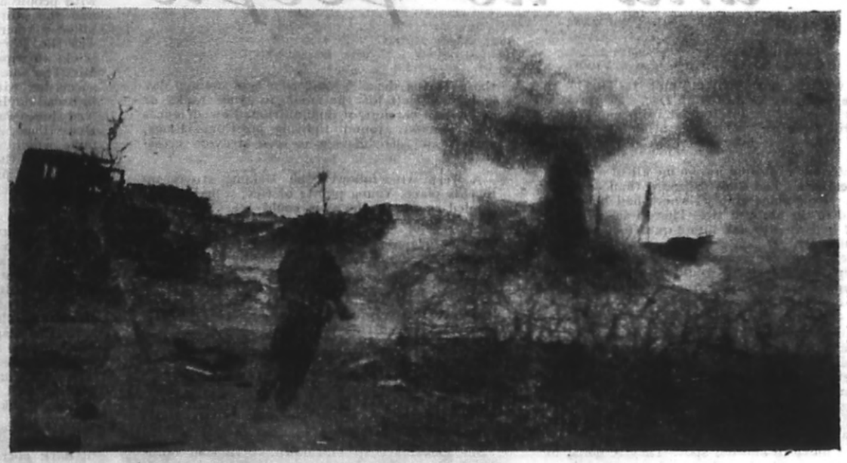
The enemy eroding tactics with the erection of posts and garrisons—a defensive tactic of a passive character—was initially frustrated by widespread guerilla warfare.

Everywhere, our guerillas and people used home-made rudimentary weapons against pacification actions. In March and April, 1,500 enemy men were knocked out in South Trung Bo, and all told, throughout Trung Bo the adverse casualty toll amounted to 23,000, among them one company and 54 platoons; 126 aircraft and 640 military vehicles were wrecked, and about 1,000 weapons seized.

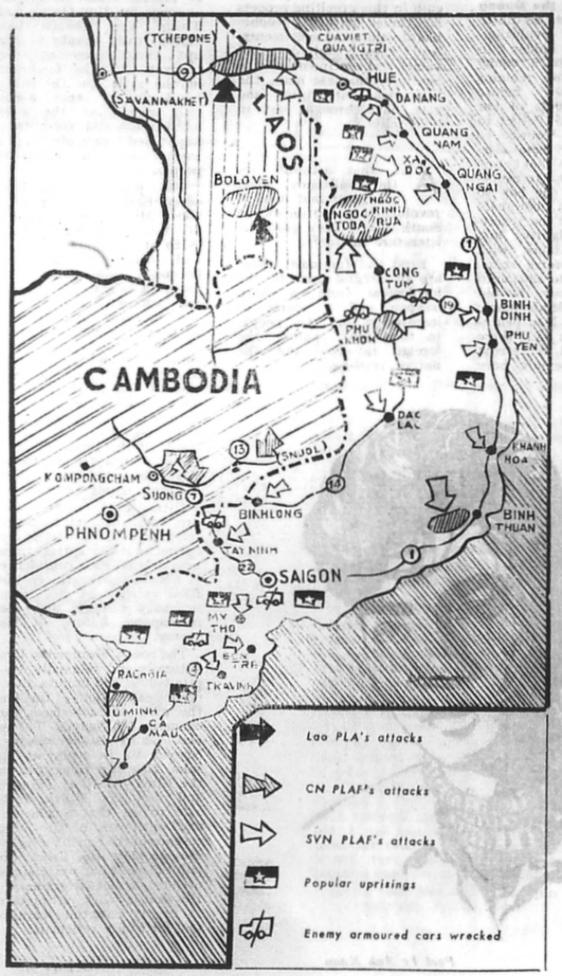
The sweeping popular uprisings, combined with guerilla warfare in rural areas of the plains, violently shook the US-Saigon position there. They pointed to the failure of the pacification plan for the control of the South Viet Nam countryside. Not only did the Americans and the Saigon administration proved unable to stamp out the revolutionary movement and guerilla warfare, but their coercive apparatus at the grass-roots level was serious undermined and even, in a number of regions, battered.

THE first half of the year 1971 was marked by a defeat of strategic significance for the US imperialists in the invasion of Southern Laos. In the flush of this success, the peoples and patriotic forces of South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia have been pushing up their resistance for national salvation and have made far-reaching comprehensive advances, forerunners of final victory.

THANH HONG



Holding firm their rifles, rushing forward, fighting and winning on their fight with no US aggressor as left in Viet Nam, that is the SVNPLAF's determination



MILITARY BALANCE SHEET

of the first half-year of 1971

– 151,000 enemy troops including 25,500 GIs and satellite troops put out of action.

– 46 battalions wiped out or trounced, 600 military posts levelled or compelled to withdraw.

– A huge quantity of weapons, ammunition, war materials and equipment destroyed, including 4,200 military vehicles (more than a half of them tanks and armoured cars), 1,160 aircraft, 400 cannons and mortars, 380 warships and combat launches, ammunition and fuel depots.

– 7,500 firearms seized.

Ennemy Base on Co Pung Hill Overrun

CO Pung is a hill 1,584 metres high lying in the heart of a primeval forest in the Quang Tri—Thua Thien mountain area, 40 km west of Hue city.

The enemy landed 3 infantry battalions together with the CP of the puppet 54th Regiment on the Co Pung area. Then they dug in deep, setting up 7 or 8 wire fences on the outer perimetre and building solid fortifications in the stronghold. The base was divided into several sectors all within reach of the support fire from neighboring positions.

Unit 7 of the liberation infantry was assigned the task to destroy the HQs of the 54th Regiment on the Co Pung Hill.

Despite a sweltering weather, stiff slopes, and constant harassment by aircraft and artillery, the liberation fighters marched out like a torrent which was to swoop down on the enemy.

At two a.m., the Co Pung jungle shook under the explosions of guns of all calibres. Barbed wire fences were blasted into pieces. Bunkers and barracks were smashed one after another. The enemy artillery sites were reduced to silence.

As the shelling stopped and before the enemy could see where the fire came from, the men of Unit 7 swarmed into the enemy base like a hurricane and using handgrenades and sub-machine guns they immediately overcame enemy resistance. The group of combatants H. and K. like a sharp arrow rushed straight to the HQs of the enemy regiment and destroyed the signal centre. Many enemy troops were killed there and then. The commanders were burried in their bunkers. Two infantry companies garrisoned around the HQs were also quickly wiped out right in their pillboxes by the group of T. and M. The remnants scrambled away in horror. The liberation fighters called on them to surrender and captured a lot of them. The machine gun on a high position barked out desperately. A liberation fighter, with just a tank-buster, sent the gun-net into smithereens.

7 minutes later, the enemy artillery site near the HQs comprising eleven 105mm howitzers and 106.7 mm mortars also shared the same fate. Hundreds of cases of ammunition exploded. The bodies of enemy gunners littered the ground.

On a small hill to the North, another liberation group assaulted 2 infantry companies of the 3rd Battalion, decimating one company. The rest took to their heels, leaving behind many deads.

After a few minutes of fighting, Unit 7 completely occupied the battlefield. The whole enemy base consisting of the HQs of the puppet 54th Regiment, one artillery site and one infantry company were wiped out, another infantry company heavily decimated, 11 howitzers and heavy mortars smashed. The liberation fighters captured many enemy troops and weapons.

At seven a.m. next day, the enemy sent their helicopters to evacuate their deads. But they met with a deadly gunfire and took many casualties.

The land and its people

THIS was the second time I met Ba Hoa — in the no man's land of Binh Duc. He pressed my hand, reluctant to part from me. We lay awake till dawn and told each other all sorts of stories. Then we fell asleep we did not know when.

A deafening explosion awoke me all of a sudden and I realized I had slept for more than an hour. I found Hoa's place empty: where had he gone? I dashed to the ambush site. There I saw him and before I had time to ask him a question, he cried out exultantly; "Don't you see, my dear Tam, I've got twelve Yanks with my mine. Last night, I anticipated their band would have to pass here, so I trapped a mine made from a 105 mm shell. All we had to pay for was some cells, the rest, powder and wire, was supplied by them."

It was not yet full daylight. A chopper made a few circles over our heads, then landed slowly. We held our breath: when the helicopter was 3 or 4 metres above the ground, a blue streak of fire spurted from a bush and soon innumerable splinters of the chopper and of shells showered on us. The craft had been downed with four more Americans.

"Let's move to another spot. They're going to pound on us now," Hoa whispered into my ear.

As a matter of fact, hardly had we reached the new emplacement when enemy shells in succession poured on the blazing chopper and on the place where we had stood a few minutes back.

Ba Hoa, a youth of 26, was one of the outstanding "fighters of Yanks" in this free-fire belt. Each time he went into action, he was cited a "Valiant Fighter." Moreover he was an "engineer" known to have manufactured various kinds of mines with which guerillas killed Yankee aggressors.

Ba Hoa was married and has two children. His was a most loving wife, and fond mother. Though the family was very poor she made it a point of relieving his husband from all family chores and anxieties that might adversely influence his revolutionary jobs.

In winter 1966, the American invaders came in force to Binh Duc, with a long trail of guns, tanks, aircraft, war vessels, toxic chemicals and prostitutes. They indulged in free killing, looting and rape right on the New Year's eve. Most of the local people had not even time to perform their ritual offering to the ancestors, their rice cakes were still cooking, some children still sleeping, and not a few mothers still suckling their babies... They were all savagely massacred: some were killed next to their hearths, others were bayoneted with their eyes still wide open staring at the aggressors and their hands still grasping a bunch of some GI's golden hair...

THAT day, Ba Hoa carried his two children on his back and led his wife across the river to his mother-in-law's house. Then alone he set out to look for the guerillas. At night, he came back to his own hut. What he saw was only a heap of cold ashes. Standing motionless, he felt a violent anger rushing to his head. He set about searching for the aggressors whom he found only at 3 o'lock in the morning. They were gathering in a deserted house like rats caught by the rain. Ba Hoa hurled a grenade at them. Not a single American sitting in the house survived, while their mates outside, in the garden, uttered cries of panick and fired at random, not knowing what was at the origin of all that turmoil.

From that night on, explosion of anti-tank grenades and mines were heard almost without interruption in Ba Hoa's native land. Each patch of ricefield, each canal, each grove of longane or banana-trees could become a grave for American invaders. The land had roused its people who now stood firmly on their feet, determined never to leave it. The people and their land were thus welded together into a bloc stronger than steel.

As I shook hands with Ba Hoa and said goodbye to him, he wrung my hand and promised to me, "Tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, we shall 'get' a dozen of them as a farewell gift to you."

"Very good," I said. "Wish you full success!"

Dong Hoa, the "big frontline" of Song Thuan village, was ebullient with a new vitality in those Spring days. Young men and women day and night left for the front, in army ranks or as civilian carriers of ammunition. New defences were erected around fighting positions. Flags, posters and streamers were seen at every crossroad.

A fresh wind followed the Mekong stream up to this place. Young plants of rice, a lush green, rippled as far as the eyes could see. The river surface shone in the morning sun.

I met grannie Nam as she was busy polishing a shell just unearthed from a ricefield.

"Hello, Tam?" she asked me most cheerfully. "So you've just come back?"

"Yes," I answered. "How many more Yanks have you bagged this year, grannie?"

"I am now jobless," she replied almost complainingly.

"They now 'monopolize' everything. Last year, I 'got' 28 Yanks on my own and 'lent' them two. They have not given back to me those two, but I don't mind."

She looked me up and down. "In your opinion," she inquired, "when will those devils go back to the United States?"

She continued with another question while I was still at a loss for an answer. "I know that they are very obstinate. You have to bash their heads in, then they'll go home!"

"Grandma! Grandma!" shouted little Thuy running on her tiny feet "Uncle Hai has just sent another vessel to the bottom of the river. Look, there is still oil on the water!"

"Where have you been since early morning, instead of staying home and boiling some water for Uncle Tam's tea?"

"I was at the Yankees' billet looking for 'grenades' for Uncle Hai," Thuy explained, visibly hurt.

"Hurrah! I thought you went somewhere just to play!"

Then she drew little girl to her and put a long kiss on her black hair.

Little Thuy was not the only child of her kind in these parts. There were hundreds of such boys and girls, all naive, innocent but very intelligent. They all dreamt of accomplishing some feat against the Americans for the honour of meeting Uncle Ho. Some of them would take Uncle's photo from a hidden place, hang it high up, then stand at attention and salute the photo before setting out on "mission."

Binh Duc Base was only 300 meters away but life here continued its tumultuous course.

Day and night alike, groups of guerillas took turns to mount guard on the peripheral sector and watch all enemy activities. They would lay a mine or a grenade or snipe to keep the Americans in a perpetual alerte and fear of death.

THIS blood-soaked letter of NCO Richard dated May 5, 1969, was given to me by a guerilla, and I am quoting some excerpts from it:

"... This is your unfortunate son writing to you, mother! I am living in a terrible fear. The alerte is given round the clock owing to explosions by the Viet Cong. I have to go on operations all the time. There are nights when I actually faint out of fatigue, and I see the spectre of death before, behind, above and under me, everywhere! I seem to hear its laugh. Fire comes out of its mouth while its two hands are stretched out to tighten their grasp on my neck. I scream. Then I pray God, but then I see God shaking hands with it. When I wake up, I am wet through with sweat and realize that it was only a dream. How frightful, dear mother!"

To say the truth, the spectre of death appeared not only to Richard but also to any American aggressors who dared venture into this Mekong Delta area. The no man's land of Long Song, Thoi Binh, Phuoc Thanh had been burning and hatred had been boiling in the hearts of the local people. The Mekong had been billowing and the ground shaking.

It was very difficult to sleep at night here. I sometimes spent sleepless nights just talking with people and listening to their stories... There was the story of guerillas in K. village who killed 7 Americans with only one grenade. There was the story of 67-year-old Bay who contrived tricks to wipe out GIs. There was the story of Miss Thu who together with her team of guerillas succeeded with a ruse in capturing some Yanks in broad daylight just next to their military base. And there was the story of Little Be, of Binh Duc village, a boy of 13, too small to carry a mine which he eventually had to roll from his house to the highway where he laid it and blasted to pieces a 12 feet high US armoured car with it.

THE first rain of the year fell. A strong smell of earth mingled with that of gun powder.

The rain stopped after we had walked for twenty minutes. The bank of the canal was bathed in the soft light of the full moon. Some rain drops were still seen on banana leaves, twinkling like diamonds. One had the impression the earth was camouflaged by an immense piece of parachute cloth. Now and then some artillery poundings from Binh Duc Base troubled the silence of night. The whole nature now belonged to the guerillas, gunmen and civilian carriers who were hunting for the Yanks.

The comrade in charge of the peripheral sector made a stop. He pointed his finger to the rows of dark corrugated iron roofed houses, to the clusters of red and blue lamps, to skyhigh antennae, depots airfield, wharves, jails, brothels... and told us "That is the Binh Duc military complex."

Binh Duc Base—where were concentrated the most "civilized" and uptodate engines of death of the Americans—had to bear, for each one of its square metres, from one to two big-sized shells, not counting all kinds of rockets and shells. The aggressors had set afire thousand of houses, they had sprayed toxic chemicals in the hope of denying cover to the Viet Cong and some orchards had been erased over again scores of times.

The enemy believed they could by so doing drive both the guerillas and the people out far from their base. But facts had given them the lie: from the ruins of hamlets and villages, a stronghold, many strongholds had sprung up, and had formed a true stranglehold of the people's war, more solid than steel—closing in around the enemy's throat. For fear of suffocation, the aggressors tried to expand their survival space. But hardly had they gone out of their base some dozens of meters when they bumped against grenade traps and got killed. The farther they went, the more casualties they suffered. In only two years of "siege," over two thousand American troops died in the areas of Long Hung, Song Thuan, Thai Son, Binh Duc, Phuoc Thanh, Thanh Phu, over 100 armoured cars were destroyed and scores of vessels were sunk in the canals.

Apparently the US commanders did not like to have such stories retold. This explained why they prohibited their men from telling one another about the use of duds collected by the Viet Cong.

Once, a scouting officer made a report to his superiors complaining about the effects of fragmentation bombs:

"On Feb. 30, 1968, the vanguard section under Lieutenant Robert Johndy went into sector 12, to look for Viet Cong. They came into a small house partly destroyed by our artillery. Johndy quartered his men there. It was typical case of GI foolishness! They thronged around a fragmentation bomb which they had discovered from under a half-destroyed cooking-pot. They gave kicks to the thing. God bless them! The bomb emitted some smoke, then exploded. Only four men survived out of a whole section. Johndy had his forearm crushed and his head and neck were covered with blood. While in a semi coma, he raved and abused our nation as a whole: a damned cross-bred cow that has given birth to gangsters disguised as President, engineers, scientists... God bless Johndy. He died when the last fragment had been removed from his skull."

The very author of this letter was killed by a 105m dud fired from Binh Duc Base "as a gift to the guerillas."

Those barefooted, pyjama-clad men had thus devised extremely versatile and efficient fighting methods which gave no end of headaches to the best strategists of the United States.

We were standing near some of those men and their weapons. There was complete silence. The gunner looked at his watch and said: "You can 'rest' for another fifteen minutes, then try to put up a good show, will you?"

While addressing his battery, he pointed his finger to the row of corrugated iron-roofed houses standing still in the dark.

"Everything OK?" he asked.

"Everything OK," they answered.

Sau, the company commander, made a last-minute check.

"This is not good. The support won't stand straight after three shots because of the rain-soaked ground."

An emergency pow-wow was called on the spot.

"Let's fell some coconut-trees..."

"Let's fetch some timber..."

All suggestions were sound, but they were hard pressed for time. Heavy silence hovered over the group. The minute hand of the watch was getting nearer to the number 12. At that moment, some footsteps were heard approaching from the orchard of banana-trees. Everybody turned round. In the dim light of stars, we could distinguish five or six women plodding in our direction, totting something very heavy. "That's Ba!" Sau uttered a muffled cry.

Only when we saw the concrete blocks in the women's hands did we understand what was all about.

Said one of the women: "We know you are in bad need of these things, so we are bringing them to you. We can also bring some doorleaves if need be." While panting her words she wiped beads of sweat from her face with a flap of her jacket.

Sau turned to me and whispered, "That's Madame Ba from Long Hung. Her husband was arrested by the enemy seven years ago, and no one knows where he is now. She was recently awarded the title of Valiant Fighter of Yanks, 2nd class, and has also distinguished herself as an outstanding political activist."

Then he asked Ba, "How did you come to know that we are here?"

"Well, at 7 p.m., my younger brother told me I should sit up and listen to the first salvoes of our artillery. Then half an hour later, you passed before my house, and I presumed you would go to the old place. I was very anxious looking at the rain, I said to myself the ground of our artillery emplacement would not be able to hold under a heavy weight, so after you had passed, I asked my younger sister to go to the river and fish these blocks out. Now don't bother about them after you have finished your job, we women will remove them."

And to put our minds completely at ease, she added: "We will clear up before dawn. Tomorrow if the Yanks show up here, they will find nothing!"

"It was very thoughtful of you, Mme Ba and you all!" said Sau deeply moved. And turning to the fighters: "Comrades," he ordered, "get your guns into position."

All the gunners set to work.

"Report: Unit 1 is ready!"

Sau's voice became solemn: "To avenge our fellow-countrymen victims of US crimes, to thank Mme Ba and all the others for their trouble, let's pour our hatred on those barracks and warehouses: Fire!"

Hundreds of flames in successive waves danced on the tin-roofed houses. Other artillery units were shelling the chopper landing ground, depots, wharves, etc., which were blazing like hell let loose.

Binh Duc Base in the throes of death shrieked at intervals. The clusters of red and green lights went out at the very first salvo. The enemy artillery was silenced. A column of fire 30 metres high rose from the central sector of the base, illuminating part of the sky and reflected itself on the river, from where innumerable glowing waves assaulted the base. A sea of smoke—white, yellow and black smoke—engulfed the whole site. local population awakened by the explosions, rushed out of their houses and clapped their hands. Many families used empty tins as drums. Little children asked their mothers to carry them on their shoulders to better see the fireworks.

The returning fighters received rousing cheers from the people. As we were approaching a bridge, a white-haired old lady came up to us with her grandson and, taking our hands in succession, said: "Come and have some tea in my house, boys! It must have been very hard in this rainy and windy weather! You boys have done very well, and I have been waiting for your return since nightfall."

"Let us continue our march, grannie. The day is dawning."

"I won't keep you long. Just for a few minutes," the old lady insisted.

We looked at one another in silence. Guessing our frame of mind, she said: "Well, you just go on. But when you have wiped out all those Yankees, don't forget to come and visit me."

In unison, we replied "yes."

"Just a minute," she suddenly said and rushed back to her house.

As she disappeared, Sau told us: "She has got four sons and one daughter. Her eldest son was regrouped in the North, her second son was reported killed in action in Eastern Nam Bo, her third son also fell in the attack against Than Cuu Nghia airfield, and her fourth son captured by the enemy is now in Poulo Condor island jail. As for her daughter, she is working in a provincial office. Her second daughter-in-law was arrested by the Yankees who gang-raped her to death then threw her corpse into the river. Only three days later could it be found."

At that moment the old lady reappeared, carrying in her hands a chicken and a duck both already cooked.

"You boys won't object my giving you this little present. Why should I let the Saigon devils eat them in your place? Have them for breakfast. You have not had a wink of sleep the whole night!"

"We can't take it..." said Sau hesitatingly.

"Look, I am not able to fight the Yanks as you do, so I give you good things to eat to have more strength to fight in my place. Now if you refuse this, I'll hang them round your neck."

It was no sooner said than done.

We all burst out laughing, while Sau stood transfixed to receive the old lady's "reward."

Our column then resumed its march, but she still stayed there following with her eyes her beloved "sons" till the last of them disappeared behind a row of trees.

HAI DUONG

A Glorious Period

(Continued from page 5)

Heroes can be run into right at your gate, as a saying of ours goes. Heroic personages do not come to our men of letters and painters so easily. Without an advanced outlook of our world and our times, without a close contact with life and people for a long period, without a proper method of creation and diligent labour, they cannot produce valuable types and works.

To write **Xa Nu Jungle, Hon Dat, The Lands of Quang Provinces, Mother Bay's Family, Land's Dream** of **Trung Nghia Village**, the authors had to painstakingly, in hardest war conditions, study or rather live, the realities in the localities they wanted to depict for the readers. Hong Chi exposed himself to the rocketing of entire flights of choppers, gathering facts on the life and work of army carriers for his **The Way Forward.** For the realization of his **Cu Chi Guerillas**, the young cameraman Pham Khac had first to fight against American raiders and knock down two of them in order to secure a relatively safe foothold. The camera team, author of the **Tay Ninh Victory**, was able to shoot two armoured personnel carriers M.113 out of commission after no less than an hour's encounter with them. Those cameramen are soldiers at the same time.

Members of dance and song ensembles and itinerant exhibition and film-projection teams have to do the fighters' hard work as anyone else before they can do their own: carrying the wounded, digging trenches, transporting supplies, etc. When need be they take up arms to defend themselves and their mates.

TOGETHER with the fight of the armed forces and people on the battlefields as well as the patriotic movement in the occupied zone, the fight for the preservation of the national culture in Saigon and other urban centres is coming to a head. Everywhere, on the military, political and also literary and artistic fronts, the enemy is on the defensive. In this general effort for emancipation, liberation literature and arts, over a period of only ten years, have made steady and really heartening steps forward.

SONG THU

CAMBODIA :

June 1971

CAMBODIA PNLAF'S FIERCE AND SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS

IN June the salient feature of military events in Cambodia was the smashing of enemy dislocation and nibbling operations together with simultaneous attacks mounted by Cambodia PNLAF on various fronts throughout the country at the very gates of Phnom Penh, the den of the Lon Non - Sirik Matak - Son Ngoc Thanh traitorous clique.

Following up the resounding victory in Snoul liberated by the fighters after having wiped out and captured 1,800 Saigon aggressors from May 26 to 30, seized and wrecked nearly 200 military vehicles, the PNLAF launched violent onslaughts on enemy positions in the Mekong river mouth at Vihear Suoi, Kompong Ampil, Prek Tameak, Prey Bang, some 20km northeast of Phnom Penh.

On the Srang front, about 40km Southwest of the capital, stunning blows were dealt by Cambodia PNLAF to Phnom Penh mercenaries in the nibbling operation on the liberated zone along Highway 3, between Tram Khnar and Angtassom. The puppet troops were swept away from their positions and heavy losses were inflicted upon their counter-attacks.

Meanwhile, the PNLAF assaulted 2 lairs of the US aggressors in the heart of Phnom Penh and blew off the biggest adverse ammo depot at the Olympic Stadium.

From May 25 to June 19, on these 2 fronts, the PNLAF put out of combat 3,500 enemy troops, downed 17 aircraft, seized or blasted a considerable quantity of war materials.

On the Kompong Cham - Kratié front, under PNLAF heavy pressure, Saigon forces had to abandon Trap Chak, Uhnar, Pratheat and Kondol Chrum. But the PNLAF's three categories of troops assaulted the enemy unremittingly. From June 6 to 12, they wiped out hundreds of adverse troops and wrecked some 30 military vehicles.

On the northwestern front, the PNLAF foiled several enemy dislocation actions in Siem Reap and Kompong Chnang.

Regional forces and guerillas also chalked many feats of arms by blasting a convoy comprising a locomotive and 21 carriages near Battambang town and blowing off a 250-meter long bridge in Kampot downtown.

In the flush of their victories, the Cambodian people and their PNLAF are forging ahead and will deal harder blows at the enemy.

An Impromptu Artillery Duel

THE sun was scorchingly hot. Hidden in a grove, two people's combatants silently watched Saigon mercenaries building an artillery emplacement in a field at Rokar Popram. In the deafening whirr of bulldozers these foreign paid soldiers perfunctorily worked their pickaxes and shovels. From time to time, they stopped to fan off their sweat in the shade of a banian, and an officer was seen leaving his tent to prod his men.

Suddenly, a helicopter roared in from the south and circled over the neighbouring Chup rubber plantation then landed near the Saigon officer's tent. Two ogrish-looking Americans alighted from the craft which immediately took off, and made for the tent. "That must be their CP," the watchmen conjectured soon after the Yankees' arrival. Armoured cars pulled up : six M. 41s and M.113s stopped at 100 metres from our fighters' hiding-place.

With his B.40 anti-tank gun, one of the patriots would have blasted to pieces at least two of them had his mate not advised him "to wait for the propitious moment."

An artilleryman and a scout, they did not belong to the same unit but happened to be on sick-leave at the same base while their comrades went on an operation. With other four combatants in a similar condition they made up a group of guerillas armed with B.40s and a mortar with about twenty shells.

By 9 p.m., when the patriots put their artillery piece into position, the enemy at Tapao was suddenly attacked by the PLAF. The artillery emplacement which was the target of our patriots rapidly counter-attacked, firing their two 155m pieces then their four 105-mm pieces. So our combatants decided "to kill two birds with one stone" by storming this position while helping their mates.

Order was given to assault the 115-mm guns. A streak of lightning flashed, followed by a big explosion from the enemy position. A minute of silence. The Saigon mercenaries replied with their 82 and 106.7 mm mortars.

Having missed their target, the guerillas readjusted their fire. A second shell triggered a prolonged thunderous explosion which shook the ground and sent a column of fire into the sky, lighting up the surrounding field.

"The ammunition dump has been hit," exclaimed the group leader. "Five more shots," he ordered. This was done in two minutes.

"Target No 2 ! Five shots !" he again commanded. The 105-mm battery caught fire, an ochre flame which released a black smoke. Explosions rocked the earth. One could see a tracked vehicle blazing like a torch and a great conflagration with orange flames devouring the enemy position.

"Look ! Another munition depot hit," the group leader announced cheerfully.

Upon this, gunner No One proposed to lob the remaining nine shells on the enemy CP.

"OK !" answered his chief. "Send four shells as a gift of ours to the Saigon and the two Yanks."

The mortar was now aimed at the tent. Four bullets were let off.

From Kolky post, the adverse pieces entered into action to relieve the pressure on Rokar Popram, dumping their shells near the guerillas' position.

Orders were then given to bring the mortar into an underground shelter dug beforehand for this purpose. By 3.00 when all pounding ceased, the group left by a secret path. In vain did an armed helicopter C.47 and several A.6s hover above the spot to search for our fighters, dropping flares and machinegunning at random.

The mortar surprise strike sprung by the people's combatants did heavy damage to the Saigon mercenaries at Rokar Popram : two ammunition depots, three ordnance pieces and several defence works destroyed by two mortar shells.

The position was eventually moved four kilometres farther, on Tuol Khnor hill, where it had to withstand a fierce PLAF attack three days later. Working in co-ordination, our infantry and artillery wiped out 350 Saigon officers and men, five ordnance pieces and 64 military vehicles, among them tens of tanks and armoured cars.

In the Tuol Khnor engagement our boys were also present.

(From an AKI account)

Cambodian guerillas are having the better of the US imperialists and their Saigon and Phnom Penh mercenary troops

LAO PATRIOTS WIN BIG VICTORIES IN FIRST HALF OF 1971

THE patriotic armed forces and people throughout Laos won big victories in the first 7 months of 1971, putting out of combat over **30,000** enemy troops, capturing **8,799** guns of various kinds, shooting down or destroying on the ground **640** US aircraft, according to *KPL*.

The agency gave the following details :

On the Highway 9 battlefront (Southern Laos), right after the US imperialists and their Saigon henchmen started their aggressive campaign on February 8, 1971, the Lao People's Liberation Army intercepted the enemy in Ban Dong, Phu Co Boc and Chaki and at the same time smashed a regiment of the Lao "Special Forces" who attempted to link up with US and Saigon puppet troops in Muong Nong area. While pinning down the enemy at Ban Dong, the LPLA struck repeatedly at this cluster of strongholds, smashed their counter-attacks and wiped out the 3rd Paratroops Regiment of the Saigon puppet army, the 21st Ranger Battalion, the 8th Para Battalion, the 17th Armoured Regiment and part of the 11th Armoured Regiment at La Tuong, Chaki, Peak 456 and north of Ban Dong. They also wiped out the 1st Infantry Regiment and badly mauled the 2nd Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division of the Saigon army at Peaks 639, 748 and 723 (west of Ban Dong), tightened their siege on the enemy at Ban Dong, overran the headquarters of the enemy there, wiping out 2 brigades, 4 artillery battalions and made short work of all US-puppet tanks and armoured cars engaged in the operation.

On the crest of these victories, the Lao People's Liberation Army pressed their attack and wiped out almost completely the 2nd Regiment of the 1st Division and the 147th Marine Regiment of the Saigon army southeast of Ban Dong, making a clean sweep of enemy in the Highway 9 area.

In only 43 days and nights (February 8 — March 23, 1971), the LPLA wiped out or captured 16,400 enemy troops, shot down or destroyed on the ground 496 US aircraft, gutted or captured 586 military vehicles including 318 armoured cars, captured or destroyed over 5,000 guns of various kinds (including 144 big guns).

In terms of units, the Lao patriots wiped out 4 brigades, 2 regiments, 8 battalions, and badly decimated 2 brigades and one regiment and 5 battalions.

Thus the Lao armed forces and people completely defeated the biggest counter-attack launched by the US imperialists and their henchmen on the Indochinese battlefront in the 1970-1971 dry season.

In co-ordination with the battles in Southern Laos, the patriotic forces and people in Savannakhet province, after smashing the enemy east of Pha Lan and southwest of Muong Phin, liberated Pha Lan and Huoi Mun areas, wiped out the last enemy post in Dong Hen, dealt heavy blows on two mobile regiments of the "Special Forces," badly mauled the 301st and 302nd battalions, posing a serious threat to the staging area of the enemy in Seno.

Further to the South, after defeating the enemy nibbling attacks against Phu Luong, east of Attopeu provincial capital, Lau Ngam and Tha Teng (Saravane), the armed forces and people in Bolovens, Saravane and Attopeu provinces destroyed several important positions of the enemy on the Bolovens High Plateaux, liberated Nam Nuc and Nam Tieng (March 1971) then Huoi Kong, Paksong and Huoi Sai (May 1971), and recovered the whole of the strategic Bolovens area, thus smashing the US imperialists' sinister scheme to turn this area into a jumping-off place to attack the resistance forces in Laos, South Viet Nam and Cambodia.

In early June 1971, the US imperialists mustered 10 Lao puppet and Thai battalions to launch a counter-attack in an attempt to reoccupy Paksong area. But they were intercepted in Ban Nhich - Y Tu, 22 km west of Paksong. From June 8 to 11, 1971, the patriotic forces put out of action 3 battalions of the Lao puppet army and 2 Thai combat companies and badly mauled an artillery piece.

Also in the first half of this year, the patriotic forces in Xieng Khoang made deep thrust into enemy positions at Phu So - Muong Sui and Salaphoukhoun, overran bandit nests at Phou-pha and Phou-nong, liberating more than 10,000 people.

The major base camp of the CIA - commanded Vang Pao "special forces" at Sam Thong - Long Cheng repeatedly came under fire, which caused serious threat to the enemy defence system. Thousands of enemy troops in Xieng Khoang were put out of action.

The patriotic forces in Luang Prabang in the same period inflicted heavy losses on the enemy along the Nam U river, and stepped up their encirclement and attack on the enemy in Pak U and Pak Xuong area and northeast of the provincial capital.

In the enemy-controlled areas, the people and guerillas destroyed many important bridges and many military vehicles. Particularly in Borikhamsay province, they attacked the logistic base of the US and its henchmen in Paksane, putting out of combat hundreds of enemy troops, wrecking over 50 military vehicles and a quantity of war supplies.

In Udomsay province, the patriotic forces smashed a joint operation conducted by Thai mercenaries and Lao puppet forces in Xieng Lom area, inflicting heavy losses.

The number of enemy troops wiped out in the first six months of this year is half as much again as in the whole of 1970. Particularly, the number of US aircraft shot down or destroyed on the ground doubled compared with the whole of last year.

The patriotic forces recovered many populous areas and strategic regions from enemy hands. The liberated areas are now linked together into a vast region stretching from North to South.

Together with the great victories won by the fraternal armies and people of South Viet Nam and Cambodia, the victories recorded by the Lao patriotic forces in the first six months of this year have dealt a stinging blow at the US imperialists scheme to prolong and widen their war of aggression in Laos and in Indochina as a whole. They also expose still more clearly the inevitable bankruptcy of the Nixon doctrine of using Indochinese to fight Indochinese, and drive the US and its henchmen deeper into the quagmire, thus creating a new situation very favourable to the Indochinese peoples' struggle against US aggression and for national salvation.

Mother of Lao combatants Mme Pann cordially talking with a Lao guerillas' unit in Bolovens area.

MAYFLIES FLYING INTO FIRE

WHILE the Lao and the world's peoples have been giving a broad consensus and warm support to the June 22, 1971 meaningful initiative of the Lao Patriotic Front aimed at a peaceful settlement to the Lao issue, the US imperialists and the reactionary Vientiane clique have been setting their faces against it and stepping up their new military adventure against the Lao people.

In its July 14, 1971 declaration, the LPF Central Committee strongly denounced Washington's and Vientiane's deployment of a big force made up of Vang Pao's Special units and Thai troops—with massive USAF intervention, including B.52's—into a large-scale incursion against the liberated "Plain of Jars — Xieng Khoang area." Everyday, the enemy kill, burn, loot, rape and herd the population into disguised concentration camps, causing heavy losses in lives and property.

In contrast with the just and well-intentioned proposal of the LPF, the present US military adventure and the so-called "limited ceasefire" offer of Souvana Phouma (July 5) have exposed the US perfidious scheme to sabotage the peaceful settlement of the Lao issue, prolong and intensify the war of aggression. They have also shown that the Vientiane authorities are only the instrument of US policy of intervention and aggression in Laos. Prince Phouma cannot shirk his heavy responsibility as regards the present explosive situation in Laos.

In his July 11, 1971 telegram to Prince Phouma, Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the LPF, stressed : "It is clear that your actions thwart our people's aspiration for peace and aim only at serving the US interests. Such adventurous and very dangerous moves have once again confirmed the revelations made recently in the 'secret documents' of the US Defense Department, laying bare the dark designs of the Yankee imperialists who have long been seeking to undermine the peaceful settlement of the Lao problem and persisting in prolonging, intensifying and expending the war of aggression in Laos."

Having thrown in their lot with the Lao people in the common effort against the US imperialists and their henchmen, the South Vietnamese people are highly indignant at the US - Vientiane criminal military venture and demand that the US imperialists and their lackeys immediately put an end to their current assault and monstrous crimes in the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khoang area.

DRIVEN into despair by their repeated setbacks, the enemy have embarked on an illegal and stupid undertaking unmindful of the lessons of operations "Ken Kiet," "Thanom Kiet," etc.

In the successful 1970-1971 dry season as well as in the first six months of this year, the heroic Lao people and armed forces mounted violent counter-attacks on them and thoroughly foiled the US - Saigon operation "Lam Son 719" during the "Highway 9 - South Laos" dramatic battle.

The military successes in the first two quarters of 1971 bear a great strategic significance as a telling blow at the Nixon doctrine and a defeat inflicted on the new US military adventures in Laos and Indochina as a whole.

They testify to the ardent patriotism, deep hatred for the enemy and determination to fight for independence and freedom of the Lao people and armed forces under the able and lucid leadership of the LPF headed by Prince Souphanouvong.

By attacking the liberated area — especially the Plain of Jars - Xieng Khoang area — far from improving a desperated situation, the US imperialists and their henchmen of Vientiane have been duly punished.

The only way out for them is to constructively answer the recent LPF peace initiative of June 23. Washington must cease its intervention and aggression in Laos, and first of all definitively and unconditionally put an end to the bombing of Lao territory, and let the Lao parties concerned settle their own affairs, without foreign interference.

The South Vietnamese people hail the achievements of the Lao people during the last six months. They unreservedly support the LPF peace proposal and strongly condemn the military adventure of the US imperialists and their henchmen. True to the historic statement of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese peoples, they are determined shoulder to shoulder with their Lao and Khmer brothers to fight on until complete victory.

More Universal Support for RSVN PRG Peace Plan

AS remarked by the Algerian paper **Le Combattant**, "it is precisely out of earnest love for peace that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has put forth its 7-point proposal." This view is shared by progressive mankind. The ever broader support for this new peace initiative from prominent personalities and organizations throughout the world is no surprise.

From the rostrum of a commemorative meeting for the 50th anniversary of the Mongolian People's Revolution, President **I.U. Tsedenbal** declared: "The Government of the People's Republic of Mongolia holds that new proposal of the PRG delegation at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam has practically paved the way for an end to the war on the Indochinese peninsula and for the peaceful reunification of Viet Nam."

The President of the Presidium of the Hungarian People's Republic, **Pal Losonczi**, and President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic **Ludvik Svoboda**, in a joint statement, declared: "Both parties supported the positions of the DRVN, the RSVN PRG and NFL, and the PRG 7-point proposal likely to lead to a political solution of the Viet Nam issue."

The Poland - Romania joint statement underscored that "both sides welcomed the 7-point peace initiative of the RSVN PRG at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam."

The Foreign Ministers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Chile, Algeria, the UAR, Mali; Acting Foreign Minister of the Congo (B), Vice-Foreign Minister of Syria, and the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry regarded the PRG new peace move as "a sound project," "logical and reasonable, and capable of helping end the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and bring genuine independence and freedom to the South Vietnamese people," an offer of "extreme importance and with content fully consistent with the Vietnamese and American people's aspirations and demands," "a good basis for the negotiation on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Indochina, for an early end to the war, for the restoration of peace and a political settlement in Viet Nam"... The Acting Foreign Minister of the Congo (B) stressed: "The will for peace and serious attitude of our Vietnamese friends commands hearty praise from world public opinion. If the Nixon administration fails to seize this opportunity to stop its aggressive war, it will become ever more isolated and meet with greater difficulties."

A great many international, regional and national organizations such as the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Union of Students, the International Federation of Democratic Women, the International Organization of Journalists, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, the Coalition Committee of Lao Patriotic and Neutralist Forces, the USSR All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the Peace Committee and Asian - African Solidarity Committee of Poland, the National Council of the National Front of the German Democratic Republic, the Fatherland Front, the Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam and the Peace Committee of Bulgaria, the Hungarian Peace Council, the Chilian Peace Committee, the Organization in Support for the NFL and the Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam of Sweden, the Norwegian Communist Youth, the National Students' Union and Communist Youths' Movement of France, the Japanese Anti-A-H Bombs Council (Gensuikyo), the Yugoslav Committee for Co-ordinated Actions with and Support for the Vietnamese People..., and the Communist Parties of France, Chile, Belgium, Norway, the Leftwing Communist Party of Sweden staged meetings, issued statements and sent messages or letters warmly acclaiming and firmly supporting or extensively disseminated the PRG new peace move. They also pledged solidarity with the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples, condemned the "Vietnamization" of the US aggressive war in South Viet Nam, and urged the US government to give a meaningful response to the overture.

The statement of the I.O.J. Secretariat said: "We welcome this new initiative as a measure conducive to the Vietnamese people's complete victory and a lasting peace...We emphatically approve the suggestion that the US government fix the end of 1971 as the deadline for the total pullout of GIs and troops of other countries taking part in the aggression. We also support the proposal that the US government withdraw its backing from the Saigon warlike group headed by Nguyen Van Thieu..."

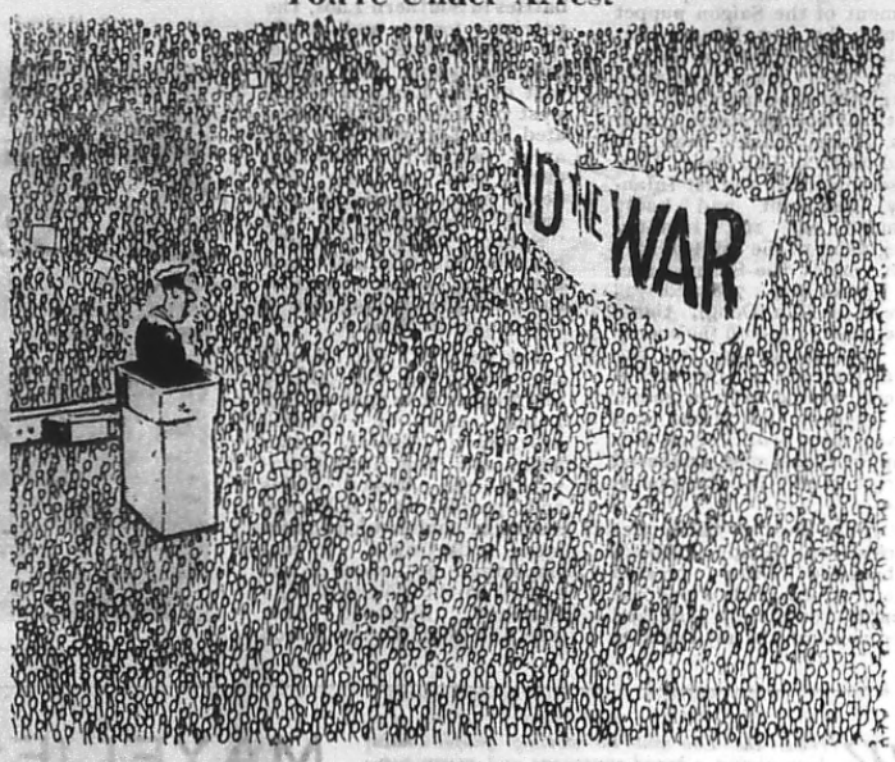
The appeal of the National Union of French Students made clear that "The PRG peace initiative has been enlisting worldwide support. Only the ring-leaders of the US and their stubborn quislings turn a deaf ear to a peace proposal. The French C.G.T. letter and the appeals of the National Union of French Students and the Movement of French Communist Youths also called on the French people, youth, students and workers to take active part in demonstrations in solidarity with the Indochinese peoples now fighting against US aggression, to be held of July 20 on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the signing on the Geneva Agreements on Indochina.

Along with the ever broader support from world public opinion, anti-war congressmen and progressive people in the US also continued to express high appreciation of the PRG overture.

Senator **Walter F Mondale** moved the US Senate to pass a resolution demanding that Nixon grasp the opportunity offered by the RSVN PRG 7 points. He described it as a "rare chance for Nixon to find an alternative. If he fails to take it, the American people will conclude that the Nixon administration only shows greater concern for the fate of a dictator in Saigon--and a strange conception of prestige at that--than of the furture of the US. Six women, representing families of American armymen captured in Viet Nam, handed a letter to Nixon at the White House of the West, urging him to respond to the PRG new peace initiative so that the American captives would be released instead of "giving priority to maintaining the Saigon government. The letter recalled that many high-ranking personalities in the present US government including Defense Secretary Melvin Laird and Foreign Secretary William Rogers had actually promised to withdraw all American troops if the US "war prisoners" were released, and demanded that they would not come back on their words.

Dean Rusk, former Secretary of State, also declared that these new peace proposals could be used as a basis for substantive discussions between the two parties.

"You're Under Arrest"



Cartoon from the paper Berkeley Tribe

in brief

— On July 6, mass demonstrations and meetings were held in New York in front of manufactures of arms and military equipment to protest against Nixon's prolongation of the aggressive war in Indochina. The demonstrators called upon the American people to sign the antiwar organizations' appeal to the peaceful settlement of the Indochinese problem.

— On July 8, at a Trade Union conference of truck drivers and store keepers (the 2,100,000-member biggest trade union in America) unanimously passed a resolution demanding Nixon to withdraw rapidly all GIs from South East Asia.

— Recently, many personalities (comprising retired Generals, intellectuals and pressmen) in the United States repeatedly denounced Nixon's stubborn prolongation of the aggressive war in Indochina and urged the immediate repatriation of all American troops. General Matthew B. Ridgway wrote in the New York Times that no wide and deep outlook was needed to see that ideals could not be dispelled by bombs and shells, that the United States has really no vital interests at all in that area which threat US security, and that big effort committed there is an appalling mistake.

— General William Wallace Ford underlined that the US must get out of that war not some time but right now, and the Americans had better not to hold their breath, not to pray and wait for the President to do it for them.

— On June 26, Mr. Kazamiercz in Etvoch went to the Republic of South Viet Nam Embassy in Warsaw to present 300 ml of his blood to the Vietnamese people. Since 1966, this was the 4th time he donated his blood. He declared to continue doing so until the Vietnamese people win total victory.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION